

HISTORY OF JANET MURDOCH SMITH

Janet Murdoch Smith was the first child of James and Mary Murray Murdoch and was born December 8, 1811 in Boghead, Ayrshire, Scotland. She was probably named after her grandmother Janet Osborne Murdoch the wife of James Murdoch her father's father.

Being the oldest I'm sure much was expected of Janet in helping the family in the meager times they lived in and with seven other children born to the family to assist her mother in their care and the home. She was probably sent out to work on nearby farms as soon as she was old enough to do so as was her younger brothers and sisters James, Veronica, Mary, John Murray Murdoch and William. (See MESSENGER # 1 page 10)

Her father James, being a miner, died in a mine shaft on 20 Oct, 1831 when trying to rescue a young man who had gone down into the pit and was overcome by foul gas "black damp".

Two years later, on 20 Dec 1833, Janet at the age of about 22 years married an Alexander Smith who is listed as a coalminer in the 1851 and 1861 Scottish Census Janet was listed as a handsewer. Our present records say they were the parents of 12 children. Two children died under age 8 and five more under the age of 31. Janet died on the 28 of June 1866 of heart disease at only 54 years of age. Her youngest child would have been 10 at this time. Alexander her husband died in about 1876 in Glasgow, Lenark, Scotland.

David Lennox Murdoch, son of William Murdoch, said the following concerning the family. "Aunt Jennie the oldest married "Alex" Smith, lived in Birnieknowe about three miles from Grasswater. She had quite a family and was in rather poor circumstances the most of her life. Her husband - a good man, but rather delicate and asthmatical. A son William whom I knew in Glasgow, immigrated to the state of Washington some number of years after we came. He and his wife are now gone, but they have left up there several sons and at least one daughter." (From his writings about MURDOCH FAMILY.)

June 1, 1906: "I then called upon Mrs Macfarlane, 42 Minard Road, Crossmyloaf who is eldest daughter of my Cousin William Smith who died last fall in the State of Washington U.S.A. She has five sons I think. Her eldest son 17 years of age went out there in the month of March last. She resembles the Murdoch's very much. A good deal like Aunt Veronica." (David Lennox Murdoch: MISSIONARY JOURNAL) (Address in Glasgow)

August 27 1906: "Called on Mrs Agnes Johnston at Kilmaurs and read the account of Kirsty Lindsay's death to her - an old time friend. October 24, 1906 Went out to Kilmaurs saw Mrs Johnston." (Perhaps this is Agnes Smith Johnston who was daughter of Janet Murdoch Smith. Among David Lennox Murdoch pictures was one of Agnes Smith and Janet M. Smith that we have printed below.

(Genealogical Library Film #103-651 A-B)

1851 Scottish Census June 28 #14 #B 4th District Parish Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Scotland

Street, place or road	Residents	Relation	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Birnieknowe	Alexander Smith	Head	42	Coalminer	Ayr. Auchinleck
	Janet	" Wife	39	handsewer	"
	Robert	" Son	10		"
	James	" Son	8		"
	John	" Son	6		"
	Mary	" Daughter	4		"

(Genealogical Library Film #103-799 A)

1861 Scottish Census Auchinleck Parish

Street, place or road	Residents	Relation	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Birnieknowe (65)	Alexander Smith	Head	52	coalminer	Ayr. Auchinleck
	Janet	Wife	49	wife	"
	Mary	Daughter	14		"
	Stewart	Son	10		"
	Alexander	Son	5		"



--JANET MURDOCH SMITH



AGNES SMITH--
(JOHNSTON)